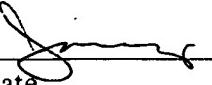
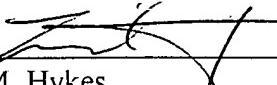


PATENT  
*[Signature]*

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

 Date

4, 2002

 Linda M. Hykes

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gaidjiergis et al.  
Filed : Herewith  
For : METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING FIBER-CEMENT SOFFITS WITH AIR VENTS

Docket No. : 31957.8007US1  
Date : January 4, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1 prior to "TECHNICAL FIELD" please insert the following:

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of, and claims the benefit of, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/415,088 (Attorney Docket No. 31957.8007US), entitled METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING FIBER-CEMENT SOFFITS WITH AIR VENTS" and filed October 8, 1999. United